



NEWINGTON BIG LOCAL

First year review; August 2014-2015



The community of Newington and Marsh
Monitors C.I.C

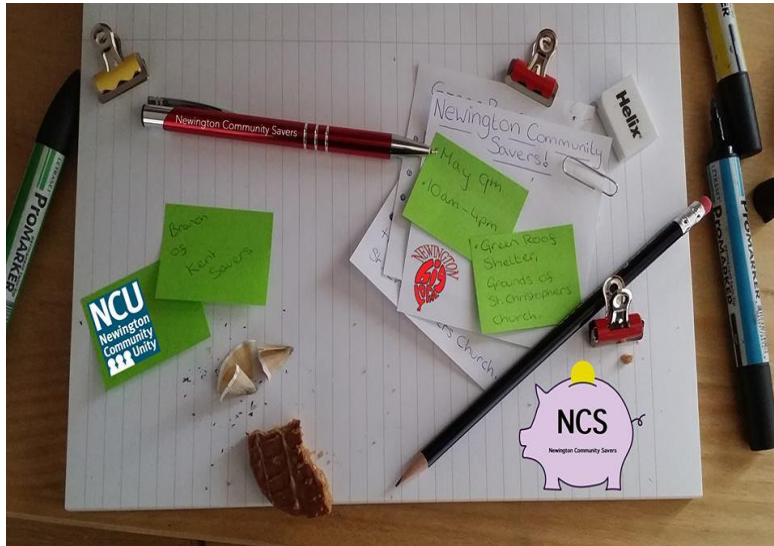


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OUR VISION

"Through Big Local Newington will be Healthier,
Wealthier and Happier."



Newington Big Local Partnership – how we work

In Newington we are passionate that our Big Local Partnership is truly resident led. Our monthly partnership meetings are widely around the estate, and all residents are encouraged to attend.

Newington Youth

Are you aged 11-19 live or go to school in Newington & want to help make it a better place to be?

Newington Big Local are now looking for the youth of the estate to set up a 'Little Local' - meaning the adolescents of the area are not forgotten.

If you are interested please contact Hannah Todd at; hannahtoddbiglocal@gmail.com

WANTED

It is not unusual to see new faces at every meeting, or to see parents bringing children, and babies in buggies. We are very proud of our inclusivity, but know we must try hard to represent the diversity of our community and hope in the years to come to reach out and include those who are underrepresented at our meetings; for example the physically disabled or BME residents.

Decision-making is as democratic as possible, with everybody's vote and voice counting the same. Non-resident guests can attend by

The Newington Big Local Partnership Plan

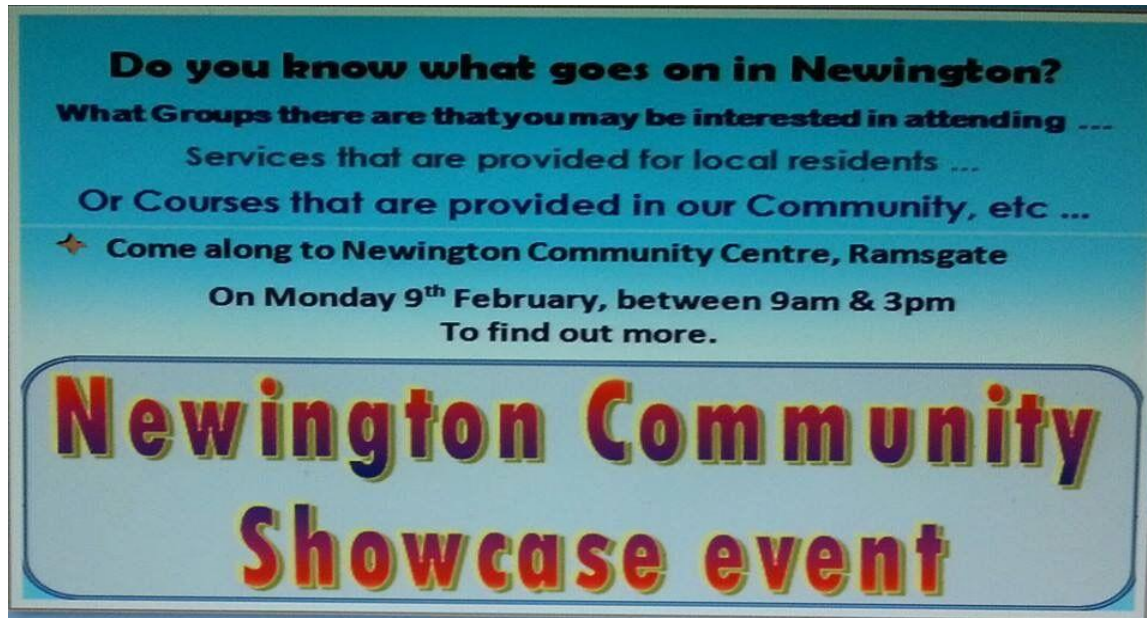
Our partnership plan was launched in August 2014 and covers a 10 year period until August 2025. This review covers the time period from the planned launch to August 2015. We have put the 14 areas of Newington Big Local work outlined in our plan into a series of tables where you can see, at a glance, the status of progress on each of them. Considering that this is a 10 year plan we were surprised to see just how much work we had done in the past year alone. Please see the table in the appendix at the end of this report

invitation, but only Newington residents can vote. We have some officer posts e.g. Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, but **Newington Big Local (NBL)** has no hierarchical structures and we operate on a horizontal model of participation. Local residents have given us feedback that they feel a sense of ownership of **NBL** because it is genuinely run by the residents.

We have a full-time Community Development Officer (part of our plan) who is also a local resident and have had good support from our Big Local Representative and numerous partner organizations such as the locally trusted organisation (LTO) Red Zebra Community Solutions, UnLtd, and the Diocese of Canterbury, The Margate Task Force and TDC Waste and Recycling.

During the past year we have also taken on our first Apprentice and are establishing a Little Local to engage young people more fully in Newington Big Local.





OUR REVIEW PROCESS

We intend this review to answer the following nine Big Local review questions:

1. What has your Big Local area done against what was in your plan?
2. What money have you spent?
3. What impact have you had?
4. What have you learnt?
5. Have you progressed on your vision and priorities?
6. Do you need to refresh your vision and priorities?
7. How does this relate to the achievement of the four Big Local outcomes?
 - Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
 - people will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future
 - the community will make a difference to the needs it prioritizes
 - people will feel that the area is an even better place to live
8. Do you need a new or revised plan, or will you continue with the existing plan?
9. How do you know this is what your Community wants?

With the help of Marsh Monitors Community Interest Company we drew this review together in the following way:

- we held discussions within the partnership
- we had a Newington Big Local review day, open to everyone where we did exercises to review progress and agree learning points
- we looked at our Newington Big Local Plan and went through each of our intended outcomes and activities for the 10 year period of the Plan, and put them into a table coded red, amber and green, depending on progress in our first year
- we asked Marsh Monitors to interview some of the Newington Big Local residents to provide case studies illustrating the impact Big Local has had on individuals



Health, Wealth and HAPPINESS!

Newington Big Local identified three thematic areas in our 10 year Plan to help make Newington an even better place to live: health, wealth, and happiness. We then broke these themes down into categories such as

'The Community is Supported to Flourish and Grow' and *'Newington's Young People Thrive'* with specific objectives set against each category for the duration of the Plan. As you can see from the tables appended to this review we did a huge amount over the past year listed by theme;

Good Things Together

Newington Big Local Events



A particular aim of NBL in its first years was to bring the community together across estate wherever possible. Our community events have attracted thousands of people from all parts of the community. There are too many to list here but some highlights included:

- Halloween Monster Mash Disco at the Community Centre and spooky events at the Copse
- Two Big Lunches
- Newington Music Event
- Victorian Christmas Party
- Community float at the Ramsgate Carnival
- Launch of the Green Roof Shelter
- Big Local Barbecue
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Newington Family Fun Day
- Memory Teas

A Space for the Community and Improving Green Spaces

We have a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NewingtonBigLocal>

With 428 followers and lots more great pictures...

Newington needed green space for the community. During the Big Local Pathway stage **NBL** reclaimed the Copse, a 1.2 acre area of woodland situated centrally in the **NBL** area. We worked

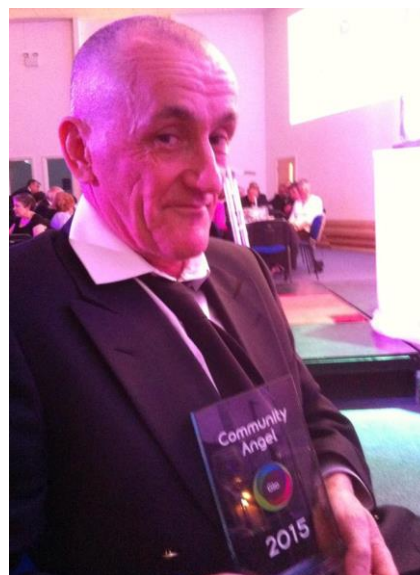


with Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and numerous volunteers to clear the Copse and secured this space, using a 'Tenancy at Will' agreement, as a community asset for the people of Newington and because we had also identified the need for a community space dedicated to Newington Big Local activity. Here is the further progress on these areas during the first year of our Plan:

- Activity in **the Copse** has exceeded all expectation. Simon Crouchman, our woodsman, has imaginatively transformed this former wilderness into a beautiful and inspiring outdoor space used by Newington

residents and groups, such as the local school and mental health support group. It is used for community events such as Halloween, the Easter Egg Hunt and art installations and as a place to grow local food. Thousands of people have visited the Copse over the past year. We now have information boards around the Copse and work to carry out a wildlife survey is ongoing with Kent Wildlife Trust. Young people are involved in planting, clearing and creating wildlife areas. Newington now has a part-time **Community Gardener, who** will work with the **NBL** Committee to develop and carry out projects designed to engage local people in their green spaces across the Big Local area.

- Simon was invited to go to London to receive a Community Angel Award and was presented with a set of new tools sponsored by The Range. **His story is here** <http://www.thanetgazette.co.uk/Oscars-night-says-thank-exceptional-people/story-26525937-detail/story.html>
- The copse has been so successful it has its own Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/Newington-Big-Local-The-Copse-1686376598263026/>





In May 2015 our fantastic community building '**The Green Roof Shelter**' was installed in the grounds of St Christopher's Church by the Green Roof Shelter Company. The building is converted from an old shipping container to be a light, airy and environmentally friendly space with a planted roof. The same design was used by The Green Roof Shelter Company at The Chelsea Flower Show where Alan Titchmarsh used it as his office. We set up a camera link to a bird nesting box on the outside wall and visitors to the green roof shelter were lucky enough to be able to watch baby blue tits being born and fledging.

And we made the local press! See the coverage on the opening day events here....

<http://www.thanetgazette.co.uk/Newington-goes-Green-wildlife-roof/story-26493317-detail/story.html>



Newington's Young People Thrive; Food for Life

Numerous activities have taken place under the above headings during the first year of the plan. Highlights residents identified in the Plan Review Day include;

The Community Chef Project

Through conversations with residents it became clear that many in Newington struggle to provide healthy food for their families, especially on limited budgets. The Community Chef project was founded in 2008 to improve health outcomes on the Isle of Sheppey and was employed by Newington Big Local to deliver similar benefits in the Newington Big Local area including:

- A First Service Project at the end of 2014. Newington Big Local residents and students from Marlow Academy took part in CV writing and interview practice skills before learning practical cooking techniques. They prepared, cooked and served two enormous paella to staff and pupils at The Marlow Academy
- Community Chef exceeded their target of running five community engagement events. Working with residents and students to produce five curries for a Curry Night at the Marlow Academy preparing and using fresh ingredients, following recipes and working together as a team. They also took the Community Chef mobile kitchen to outside The Spar supermarket in Newington where they prepared and served spicy vegetable soup.





Chicken and pepper curry and almond cake free to residents. Spar kindly donated the ingredients. They also took the mobile kitchen to Thanet Farmers Market where they cooked up root vegetable soup, three types of tortilla and dessert paella and handed it out to visitors and stallholders. Community Chef and Newington Big Local also attended the Ignite Food Bank, Broadstairs Food Festival, and Margate Food and Beer Festival. Residents were given more autonomy over the food preparation and customer servicing each time so eventually they did the whole event themselves without Community Chef being present.

- Part of the Community Chef Project is to encourage people and equip them with the skills to be able to consider employment in catering. Residents are also involved in “Train the Trainer” activities to pass learning on to others in the community, making the project sustainable long term. Feedback from participants showed very strongly that the skills taught are useful in daily life; that residents increased in confidence; that the shared activities helped community cohesion and the mobile kitchen events helped to raise the profile of Newington as a positive place.

Newington Toddler Group

With the support of Newington Big Local a toddler group is now up and running in the annex of Dame Janet Primary school in Ramsgate. Newington Big Local helped to establish the group and we provided a grant of £5000 for storage space, furnishings, stair gates to the kitchens, baby changing facilities, toys, and other toddler equipment. We also keep parents informed of other activities provided in the community for babies.

Acts of Kindness



In the Newington Big Local Plan we proposed to work with People United “a creative laboratory and pioneering charity” to deliver a creative project in Newington that would engender kindness. Using innovative and inspiring artistic experiences the project aims to grow empathy, cooperation and respect – conditions for a caring neighborhood. The project called ‘The Best of Us’ has gone from strength to strength over the past year. The Best of Us, www.facebook.com/thebestofusproject, selects and celebrates good news stories past and present from Newington, to reflect the best of the people in the local community.



Key activities include;

- **Artist in residence**, Nova Marshall, working with Newington Primary School exploring the theme of courage. Children from the school made posters encouraging residents to share their stories of courage. Nova also ran workshops with the Brownies and Rainbows at St. Christopher's Church
- Newington **Creative Champions** meet as a group every Thursday evening and although it took some time to establish the relationship between artist and community it is now a well-established group with regular attendance. We are developing ways to engage Newington people to tell their stories for example having a story box in the community centre to collect stories, and the artist Estelle Rosenfeld running a session where we created puppets using images of people we admire.
- Royal Academy of Arts graduate and Margate artist Leandro Stafford worked with young people in Newington to create **A Newington Story**, challenging the negative perceptions of the area and helping to create positive new ones. People were asked to upload stories of Newington onto the website www.anewingtonstory.com
- Or via #ANewingtonStory. Young people from Newington then supported Leandro running family art workshops in August at the Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate as part of International Youth day. Leandro's light installation took pride of place on the terrace at Turner Contemporary showing a quote from a 7 year old boy in Newington "I've Been



Waiting for Someone to Discover Me". During the week of the installation 13679 people visited the Turner Contemporary and every one had to walk past the light structure to enter the gallery. The project caused many people to talk about Newington in a positive light.

People Ltd Received a Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research and record local histories in Newington, supporting and training 45 **Newington Big History Ambassadors** to discover and bring to life the rich and varied histories of the communities that have lived in Newington.

Newington: The Big Local



Memory Teas

Do you have any photographs of life in Newington?
If so, we would love to see them.
 Bring them along on the 9th October from 2pm to 5pm to
 Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, CT12 6HX
 Or get in touch via [Facebook](#) **Newington Big Local** for details.








‘Springboard’ with Porchlight

The Newington Big Local Plan identified a lack of activities specifically aimed at young people in Newington. We decided to work with the Kent-based charity Porchlight to deliver their “Springboard Activities Programme”. It offers a wide ranging programme of healthy and positive recreational, social and developmental activities which are fun and accessible, but also builds life skills, confidence, and act as a springboard for young people to access wider programs focusing on employment, education, independent living and citizenship.



Although still at the engagement level Springboard has quickly become a feature in Newington and has:

- had Porchlight staff on the streets in Newington speaking to young people on the estate, particularly the vulnerable and signposting them to activities, assistance and advice
- taken a coach load of young people to a multi sports festival at the Cooper Box at the Olympic Park in London
- run training events including first aid and “Don’t Lose It” anger management course
- held around 25 activity sessions for young people
- Offered employment advice to over 120 young
- New Sports Academy moved to a Thursday and initial “sign up” session held over ½ term
- Marshmallow challenge with the committee
- Group going to watch the play “She Called Me Mother” at the theatre and then a McDonald’s trip to discuss it after.

Money Matters



A significant number of Newington residents struggle to manage their finances, with many falling foul of doorstep lenders. As part of our 10 year programme we identified the need to work with young people to help them develop good financial skills and practices. We also want to work with adults to support debt management and offer an alternative to doorstep lending. In the first year of our plan we have:

- Started Newington Community Savers in June 2015 as a branch of Kent Savers www.kentsavers.co.uk. The scheme operates from the pleasant surroundings of the Green Roof Shelter every weekend and offers loan accounts (at 4.9% APR) for loans between £300 and £7500, savings accounts, youth accounts and Christmas Saving accounts. It is also possible to have all benefits paid into these accounts and to have a debit card. So far 44 people have opened accounts within the Green Roof, 20 of those are youth accounts and these have benefitted from the £10 and a piggy bank from Newington Big Local. There is the option of joining Kent Savers online and we have the facility for people to do so within the Green Roof should they wish.
- Started working with all young people under 18 (approximately 750 of them) in Newington. Through Newington Community Savers young people have £10 deposited when they open a savings account. Because people thought this could be too good to be true we put up “*What’s the catch?*” posters around the estate to explain there isn’t one!
- With the help of Kent Savers we trained 8 Newington residents in the skills to run Newington Community Savers –the training consisted of running systems that helped operate cash and cheque deposits and withdrawals, loan applications and confidentiality
- We are working with Citizens Advice Bureau to train 12 local residents to become advisers. This will help local residents with, amongst other advice services, money and debt advice and signposting to other services.

- We have connected to the East Kent Area Board, presented to East Kent Mencap, Job Centre Plus and will be following this up by presenting to all local schools

Community Chest – Supporting Local People To Kickstart Local Change

Newington Big Local has set up a small grants scheme to enable local people to run activities to benefit the local community and create change. The grant criteria are based on the full Big Local Outcomes and there is a maximum grant available of £500. Listed are the grants given to date totaling £2297.11;

- Hannah Todd Photography £500 to buy equipment to take photos of community events and to work with someone with learning difficulties and encourage and teach them to use the equipment
- Dame Janet Parents Event Committee £500 to go towards funding their shed where they hold coffee mornings, parents meetings etc
- Newington Community Association £297.11 for Community Art Project, this takes place in the community centre in school holidays giving children and their families something to do
- Newington Community Association £500 Deep Clean at Community Centre (Cleaning Equipment) for a steamer and buffer to clean the community centre
- Ramsgate West Viking Rangers £500 towards their travel costs for Wristbands and Wellies.

Building our community.....



The Impact on Newington's Community

At our Plan Review Day in September 2015 we asked residents to highlight the top achievements of Newington Big Local over the past year. This is what they identified:

- promoting Newington is a great place it is – dispelling the old reputation it used to have
- bringing back the community spirit in Newington - a feeling of community cohesion
- people feel more confident and are better and speaking out to share their ideas
- we learned to listen to each other
- Newington Big Local is managing to engage the wider community now
- people are being given the chance/opportunity to use and improve skills might not even recognize they had

What We Have Learned

These are the main learning points suggested by residents and from our discussions in the Plan Review Day:

- In future we should ensure that the pace of our work, driven by our enthusiasm, matches the capacity of those tasked with delivering on a day-to-day basis, so that they do not become overworked. If they do we need them to step back and support them
- we are amazing when we work together
- This is a good community and we are getting our community spirit back. It's too easy to take on the labels people give you
- we are better at looking past people's surface and appreciating we've all got something to offer - it just might appear in different ways, some very small
- we will try even harder to reach out to people who are underrepresented at our meetings for example physically disabled and BME residents
- Communication could sometimes be improved. The Partnership could talk more if there's a problem and emails can be misconstrued. It would be better to work out issues always face-to-face in a process of personal meetings
- If people commit to something they need to follow it through or at least give enough notice so someone else can take their place. We need a way to make this happen - maybe a 'phone tree' to check everyone's up to speed and available before events
- at events with loud music try to have a quiet space so people can speak to each other
- At our first Christmas event tickets were free and we only catered for the half of the amount needed so lost income opportunity. In hindsight we should have charged a small sum and then gave people some recompense e.g. money off or free food when they got in
- at the moment we vote by raising hands but private votes could be good sometimes



The community is supported to flourish and grow

- learn from mistakes but move on, don't just give up - there will always be things that don't work you just need to keep on going
- be sure to check out what is going on in your area before setting a date for an event and advertising it - we've had a few clashes that could've been avoided
- make sure you advertise an event well in advance to ensure it reaches all parts of the community
- Be discerning about your partners, especially when there is a lot of money potentially to commission people. Try to weed out the good from the bad, the organizations that zoom in to seek money but are not really needed
- **Have a go! get stuck in and try things**

What We Have Spent

Since our Plan was approved in September 2014 we have spent £139,000 of our million pounds!

- Newington Children and young people £25,000
- The Copse £4,000
- Community events £4,300
- Community Chest £2,300
- Acts of Kindness, our Arts project £20,000
- Newington Community Savers £1,100
- Staff, admin, marketing, insurances etc. £36,500
- A new Embedded Advice Service for 2016 £10,000
- Green Roof Shelter £34,100 (this includes some of the purchase costs as well as set up)
- Office hire £1,700 (prior to having Green Roof Shelter)

We have also raised over £2,000 through community fundraising!

Our Future Newington Big Local Plan

NBL residents created a two year plan (2015 and 2016) which is available to download on the Community21 website

<http://community21.org/communities/newington/about>

Our first year has been spent establishing NBL which has been very successful. We have learnt a great deal and these lessons have been listed on page 19 of this report. We have listened; and reviewed and amended our plans accordingly. These are available on the table in Appendix 1.

We will be consolidating with those we have already connected to, but in 2016 we intend to reach out to residents of the community that are underrepresented (e.g. the physically disabled)

Our visions and priorities remain the same.



Case Studies

Tammy's case study

My neighbors' invited me along to an NBL meeting and now I attend most meetings. My main involvement has been organizing the events. For the first Halloween event I was volunteered by someone else because I always do Halloween at home. I organized a leaflet drop of almost all of the estate, with partners taking an area of the Big Local map and leafleting houses and shops - also lots on Facebook, posters in shops and publicity on the NBL website and Facebook page. The event at the community centre was a roaring success and over 300 people turned up. We had a disco with Halloween themed activities such as apple bobbing, a worm game using spaghetti, fancy dress costume competition etc. We didn't think many people at all would come but I went to the toilet to change and came out to see hundreds of people. The first year it was a free event to get as many people involved as possible. For the second year we charged a low amount to cover costs and got in similar numbers. I went to the Big Local Lunches Extra event at the Eden Project in Cornwall. This was amazing as I got lots of ideas, got to talk to many people from different areas. It really increased my confidence.

I also did the Community Chef project this year. As part of their Big Pan event you're given an ingredients list and recipes for four people, and then have to upscale it to feed a public event. The meal was given out free at the community centre and the church. It was aimed at showing how to use fresh food on a tight budget. We then took the Community Chef experience to the Broadstairs Food Festival and that worked very well. We are also booked into the Margate Beer and Food Festival and the next Broadstairs food festival and will do that alone without the Community Chefs being there. Because of this experience at NBL we are now able to have more catering variety at our own events and know how to budget properly.

The positives of being involved in Big Local have been enormous for me. I found *me*. I'm Tammy not just Mum. I've also learned many new skills for example I've done health and safety training, safeguarding training for vulnerable adults, food hygiene training, first-aid training.

If NBL were not there I would feel a bit lost now and would not know what to do with myself. For example, over the Christmas period when NBL goes quiet I feel itching to start something new for the community. NBL has definitely been a big benefit to the Newington community - it has got its community spirit back. NBL has brought the two sides of the estates together. It's also much easier now to spot people who feel isolated and to do something to involve them. I'm not nervous about organizing anything now because I've got the experience. I even feel ready to take the next step and explore working in events planning as a career. Perhaps as a small business of my own.

Hannah's case study

My neighbor came to my house and said there was photography opportunity through Big Local so I got involved and my mum went with me. I've photographed all the NBL events. I also helped to run the Easter event, have been setting up Little Local, and I'm also now a Big Local ambassador. The Easter event was an Easter egg hunt around the copse. All the tickets sold locally and we even had a few random other public turn up. It was aimed at children, promoted via Facebook and the children really enjoyed it. It got into the Gazette.

I'm doing Community Chef and I'm a Creative Champion involved with "Best of Us" art project with People United, run at the youth centre in Newington. It's been challenging with some of the young people who are happy to hassle participants but won't engage directly. Girls appear more likely to engage but maybe it's just a matter of patience, giving it time. As a Big Local ambassador I will go around other Big Local areas inspiring them and will receive media training.

My involvement with NBL has massively increased my sense of self-worth. I'd had a very long period of depression that had ended just before joining NBL. I feel I'm doing valuable things now. It is excellent as the others in your own community see what's going on and I've been getting so much good comment. It has helped me psychologically being involved seeing people that I know benefiting from it. NBL is a tight knit and supportive group. I've often found it difficult speaking to people my own age - I was better with older people or much younger children. But seeing people through NBL of my own age appreciating it has been excellent and I now gets on with people my own age much better. I've lived in Newington for 14 years. Before NBL I had a couple of friends on the estate but no one else. Now I know lots of people by face and going around the estate you find yourself recognizing lots of people, nodding to them, saying hello.

I believe that NBL has been essential in helping our community see our community, see ourselves more and in a positive light. Before, if you'd asked me what I thought about living in Newington I would have said I hated it. Now I can see the visible results, like doing up the community centre, the Copse, the play area, you can see a difference and I feel differently too. In the play area for example it used to be only for kids from the block and I'd been shouted at before when I used it. Now everyone uses it and the facilities are really good.



Steph's case study

A friend told me about NBL. I was motivated to get involved for opportunities for my daughter who has an interest in photography. Since then it has snowballed. I'm involved in every project. Christmas 2014 I was the event organizer and the most of the events involve some data collection to know who we are reaching on the estate. At the events I'll go around getting email addresses from residents and chatting with them to get their views. I would like to start an email newsletter again soon. I've been the Chair of NBL since January 2015 and before that was vice chair from October 2014. It has been really heartwarming seeing the committee coming together committee and seeing the residents who participate grow in confidence. At the Cope Halloween event for example we thought we'd okay be open for about two hours but people congregated in the middle of the area talking to each other and wouldn't leave, it actually looked like a real community talking to each other. At the end of the night we'd had between 400 and 500 people attending - it felt like a real success. The end plan for NBL is to make the Newington community like a community and these are all steps to that.

The downside is that it can be difficult balancing a committee, dealing with tensions and sometimes negative comments. Negativity can breed contempt and I will go out of my way to chat to people and then tried to iron out any personal difficulties people have with each other. There needs to be some responsibility comes with being a member of the partnership. Having said this communications have improved. Another lesson is the people, if they sign up to take part in an activity, should follow through, for example what happened at the food festival.

I've really increased in confidence since being at NBL. I've realized once again that I'm more than just a mum of disabled children. "I feel more like me, like I have a worth I am not worthless. I felt a bit of a drain on society but not now." I already had good skills, especially from my previous career, but over the years being at home they were not being used so much. NBL has brought some new skills and I've also learnt to bite my tongue and to be more understanding of others' needs. The biggest highlight for me has been watching Andrew and Simon grow in confidence and to be accepted by the wider community and the NBL group. Now if either of them speak people listen, they can now look past the special needs.

With the chair position come so much stress in the role that I hope it was all worth it for the benefits it is bringing to the community. When it is going well there is a huge real buzz about it for example when the Green Roof Shelter was up. NPL gives hope. It's amazing to think that someone or some people were willing to invest £1 million in our community. It makes us realize that those more to us than being viewed as just another council estate.

Anaken's (age 14) Case Study

Anaken is a 14 year old boy who has severe learning difficulties, Autism, Dysplasia, severely impaired social and emotional developmental delay, pervasive development disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder with Co morbid self-esteem and behavioral issues.

2 years ago Anaken was not engaged in education, completely stopped talking and his first and main thought process everyday was suicide.

1 year ago Anaken was invited to join in with Community Chef by Newington Big Local.

The change was extraordinary; he became a talkative, well rounded young man in what seemed a blink of the eye. The Chefs were absolutely amazing with Anaken; they built his self-esteem and never told him he wasn't able to do anything. They pushed forward and they listened! They gave opportunities to him to learn the signs of his aggression and to put his kitchen equipment down and walk away for ten minutes.

They ignited a passion in Anaken for food and he is now looking at college to become a qualified chef.

The biggest change that I believe everyone will agree was taking Anaken and another young person to cook at the Broadstairs food festival.

He came into his own, he took control of his cooking area, he walked into incredibly large crowds and he thrived! He spoke to strangers, he drummed up business and nothing was too much trouble, the change in him was an absolute joy to see. Not only did the opportunity that Newington Big Local gave to Anaken for community Chef completely change his outlook it probably saved his life!

As a family we cannot express just how much community chef and Newington Big Local have changed our son.



Lisa's Case Study

I'm a churchwarden at St Christopher's Church and live in Newington. I went to an NBL meeting with another churchwarden and liked it so stayed on. I especially like that everybody decides on what we do and our priorities as a group, there is no 'us and them'. Everybody has the right to their opinions and all are listened to. I feel there is a real sense of respect within NBL. I helped with the launch of NBL, manning the bouncy castle. Quite a lot of people came from the community and it was very well attended. NBL has a good mix of the community, people with different views from different parts of the estate and this brings a positive attitude to the meetings.

I've not been involved in any of the projects but would like now to get more involved but it depends on when they are held because of other commitments. NBL is good if you need advice. If you have a problem they will try to help you get through it. There are a few individuals in particular who can advise you that I wouldn't probably have known about without NBL. I have much more confidence now, and I'm not afraid to speak out. Attending the meetings has really helped with this and increased my self-esteem. I would be very upset if NBL were not there. I wouldn't be able to speak out or have a say in what happens locally or get advice from the right people when I need it. Next I'd like to be involved in more projects even if I only play a little part. Everyone is a step onwards for my confidence building because I wouldn't have done this before.

NBL gives the community something to do particularly if you have children as there is a lot on offer for the children. It gets people out and mixing, socializing and it helps people to get out of the house especially those that had a bit of a problem going out before.

Emma's case study

I lived and grew up in Newington. I went away for five years after having children then moved back and it's the only place that ever really felt like home. My family is here and I know the area. There is a good sense of community now because of NBL. When I moved back people would say they couldn't believe I was moving here and would ask "have you been there?" There was a bad stigma to Newington. Before on the estate if you walked past someone they would look down and wouldn't make eye contact - but it is honestly gone from that to smiling and saying hello. There are a couple of areas of bungalows with elderly people and they're happy now to stand outside to talk to people or the children on the street. There is a very friendly atmosphere.

I was a bit skeptical about at first and felt the area would never get to where it is now - I wasn't sure Big Local could work. Now though I'm vice-chair of NBL and have been very involved, especially with the events. I helped with two big lunch events. I found out from the local

organiser that it was happening over the whole country and volunteered to take it on in Newington. We had a £100 budget and held the event at the church. 50 people bought a plate of food each and had a buffet with games, together families to engage with each other. It worked well with them all mingling together. Some families came together and sat together but in the games with split them up. We had kiddie archery, boards with head holes and wet sponges etc. I also helped out at the Christmas events in the kitchen, decorating, playing games with children, whatever's needed.

The best thing for me personally about NBL has been realising what I can do and what skills I have and that I do have potential. When I started I didn't think I could do a quarter of the things I've done and two and half years ago would have struggled to say what my strengths are. Now I'm much more positive about myself. Since the age of 18 I've been raising a family and over time my qualifications don't stand anymore and I had a level of low self-esteem and low self-confidence in that aspect. Through NBL I've found out that I have good communication skills, developed good people skills, can do more IT (from doing the minutes etc), and realised I've got good planning and organisational skills.

I've had opportunities I never believed I'd ever have. For example, I went to a radio station for one day talking about advertising NBL events. The presenter said he thought I had an excellent voice news-reading and would I be interested in doing some work with them. I thought about it, went back and was a newsreader for couple of months even doing the quizzes on the hoof and writing the news. I was particularly pleased with myself that I went back in after his offer and followed it through. I was so incredibly nervous at first but I like a challenge, proving I can do something. I'm Big Local Ambassador now and will have media opportunities with this too.

I would really miss NBL if it wasn't there. When I moved back I didn't have many friends to pop round for tea but now I'm talking to the neighbours and know them all. Where I live we now have a neighbourhood agreement which the tenants themselves put together. One tenant saw in the tenants' newsletter about funding for community engagement. We said we wanted a playpark, went through the Thanet area board, and designed outlines for a park, chose it and it was put in last May.

The thing that made me first realise NBL could work was something initially very small. I spoke to the Big Local rep because we only had a dog bin in the middle of the Green and I asked for it to be moved. Just one week after asking the housing officer to move it, it happened. I realised we could make a difference and felt someone does listen. This was a pivotal moment and it made me think - what next? I hope more people get involved to get the same benefits I've had. Even the regular attenders at NBL events go on to gain more - many now come to NBL for advice about housing, money etc. and I think most people know about NBL now in Newington.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Theme	The Plan	What we did so far
Good Things Together	Hold Events: - 2 Big lunches - BBQ - Music Event - Halloween event - Victorian Christmas Party - Easter event - Float at Ramsgate Festival (from Plan *)	Events Held: - 2 Big lunches - BBQ - Music Event - Big Local Launch - Halloween event - Ramsgate Carnival - Community Chef events - Victorian Christmas Party - Easter event - August 2015 summer event - Best of Us, People Unite - Many more....
Engaging Useful Partners	Skillforce	Decided not to progress with this
	Pfizer & computer suite (from Plan)	Funding not received. Future plans for Community Centre tbc
	Work with Diocese of Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locally Trusted Organization - NBL situated at St. Christopher's etc.

<p>The Community is Supported to Flourish and Grow</p>	<p>Employ our Community Development Officer</p>	<p>Employed Community Development Officer</p>
	<p>Employ an Apprentice</p>	<p>Employed first Apprentice</p>
<p>A Space for the Community</p>	<p>Build the Green Roof Shelter as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location for local advice services - Location for 1:1 debt advice and money advice - Wildlife resource for community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Roof Shelter built and open - Newington Community Bank - debt & money advice services operating here - Kent Savers running - Credit Union running - Citizens Advice Bureau engaged - Wildlife gardening in various locations; Green Roof Shelter



The community is supported to flourish and grow

<p>Money Matters</p>	<p>Work with Kent Savers and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with all children under 18 - Open Kent Savers account for 0-17 year olds - Place £10 in account for every 0-18 year old - Develop all local schools curriculum for money matters - Teach good money management with Newington Big Local schools - support service info - Residents trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 18's work started & now going into schools - 0-17 accounts in place with £10 if account opened - Going into schools from Autumn 2015 to teach money matters/management - advice signposting to CAB - Residents trained
<p>Newington's Young People Thrive</p>	<p>Set up communal play area in Coyningham Close (from Plan)</p>	<p>Set up communal play area in Conyningham Close with funding from local housing association</p>
	<p>Involve young people in partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing and Little Local set up - Academy FM & music festival planned
	<p>Involve young people in gardening and growing</p>	<p>Young people involved – to date planted over 30 fruit trees and created a vegetable patch</p>
	<p>Establish a weekly parent/carer run toddler group</p>	<p>Toddler group in Dame Janet School</p>

	Work with Porchlight Springboard Activities Programme	- Porchlight delivering in Newington (various activities)
Improving Green Spaces	Reclaim the Copse & transform it	The Copse transformed into a wildlife and wild place retreat and activity space
	Secure the Copse as a Community Asset	Secured a Tenancy at Will agreement with KCC to ensure Copse stays as Community Asset
	Create Community Gardener post	Imminent
	Grow local food in Copse	Ongoing
	Explore setting up Forest School in Copse	Plans broadened from Forest School. Have links with PALS, mental health organizations, local schools, People United activities etc.
	Explore EU links with Forest Schools	Not necessary now
	Create information boards – history of Copse and wildlife	- Info boards created - Facebook page for Copse
	Facilitate Copse KWT wildlife survey	more info needed
	Set up Kent Sheds project in Copse	Not proceeding
	Create a Secret Garden behind Coyningham	Secret Garden cleared of rubbish and weeds

	Close	
Food for Life	First Service project Oct/Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed - Marlowe students also did CV & interview skills
	5 community engagement events Oct 2014-March 2015	- Completed & exceeded including SPA events; curry night at Marlowe; Broadstairs food fest.
	Community Chefs “train the trainer” programme Jan – March 2015	- completed
	Support residents to visit other Big Local areas & events	Ongoing
	Trafford Hall training for residents	For future plan?
Community Chest	Small grants scheme up to £500	- grants scheme running
Acts of Kindness	People United in Newington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best of Us project running - artist in residence in place - Creative Champions running - Local History champions

	People United Research & Development Oct – March 2015	- Project beginning
Support for Dads	Working with DAD4DAD to increase fathers' confidence as men	- Not started, under review
Local Care Services to Local People, by Local People	Right at Home project	- Not proceeded with as organization not operating now